

**Abstract****MANAGING DISK DRIVE REPLACEMENTS ON MULTIDISK HEADLESS APPLIANCES**

A headless computer entity having a plurality of disk drives operates to self  
5 restore to a known state, upon failure of either a system disk drive containing an  
operating system of the computer entity, or failure of a data disk drive containing  
application data. Depending upon whether the system disk and/or the data disk  
are replaced by a replacement disk, the computer entity configures itself with  
either deletion of application data on the data disk, or with deletion of application  
10 data on both the system disk and the data disk. The computer entity determines  
whether a new replacement disk has been installed by comparing a signature of  
the system disk with a signature of the data disk. If a replacement disk is  
detected, then the digital signatures are set by the computer entity such that the  
system disk and data disk have a self consistent set of hardware specific digital  
15 signatures. Application data is returned to a known good state after deletion.